

Rapid To-Dos

with Charlie Farrell and Annie Brabazon



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Frogged

by Vivian Vande Velde

Past Tense Animals Part I

Linguistic & Interpersonal Intelligence

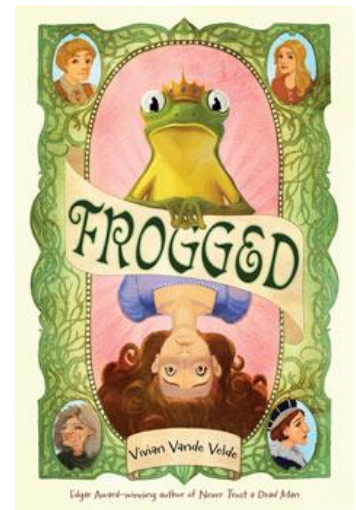
In *Frogged* the author creates a new word for the title by taking an animal's name and morphing it into a past tense verb. Animal names are frequently found as verbs.

This activity could be used as an icebreaker in a large group. Use the list below to create small cards or Post-it notes with the verb form of an animal's name. On another small card or Post-it note write the definition of the word.

The cards or Post-it notes will be distributed evenly through the group. Be sure to pass out both the word and the definition to different students.

The goal is for the individual students to mingle through the crowd to find their match.

aped...to have copied
batted...to hit with a club
buffaloed...to have intimidated
bugged...to have pestered
bulled...to have pushed with force
clammed (up)...to have refused to talk
cowed...to have frightened with threats or a show of force
crabbed...to drift diagonally or sideways
crowed...to have boasted loudly
dogged...to have tracked or trailed persistently
ducked...to have dodged
eagled...to have scored two under par on a golf hole
ferreted...to have uncovered & brought to light by searching
floundered...to have made clumsy attempts to move or regain one's balance
(out)foxed...to have outsmart someone
goosed...to have pinched
grouched...to have complained
hawked...to have sold items aggressively
hogged...to have taken more than a fair share



horsed...to have hauled or hoisted energetically
kited...to have soared or glided
leached...to have drained the essence of or exhausted the resources of
lionized...to have treated someone as a celebrity
perched...to have roosted
pigged (out)...to have over eaten
ponied (up)...to have paid money due or owed
rammed...to have collided with
ratted (on)...to have betrayed your friends by telling on them
sealed...to have applied a waterproof coating to
skated...to have rolled along on wheeled shoes or bladed shoes
skunked...to have beaten esp. by keeping the losing side from scoring
slugged..to have punched
snaked...to have moved in a sinuous or gliding manner
squirrelled (away)...to have hidden or stored
swallowed...to have food or drink pass through your mouth and throat
weaseled...to have backed out of a situation in a sneaky or cowardly
manner
wildcatted...to have independently prospected for oil
wolfed...to have eaten greedily

Leap Frog

Kinesthetic Intelligence

Princess Imogene was turned into a frog in *Frogged* and had to spend weeks leapfrogging through the countryside.

If your students need to burn off some energy you may want to have a series of leapfrogging races. You could pair up students and have a series of heats to determine the fastest frog in the pond.

Relay races could be another option.

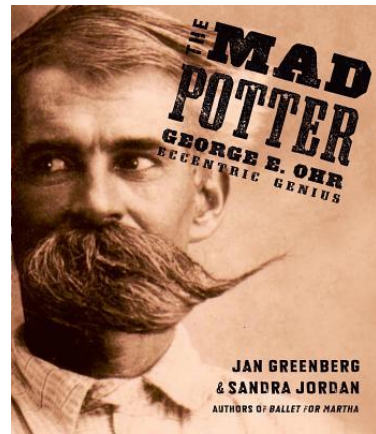
If you want a real challenge you could organize the entire class into a conga line of leapfrogging kids!

The Mad Potter

by Jan Greenberg & Sandra Jordan

Mad Potter Pictionary

Spatial Intelligence



The Mad Potter is a very visual biography of the artisan, George E. Ohr. A game of Pictionary would combine art and literature in a very boisterous activity.

Pictionary is a game that is very interactive. I usually split my class into two teams. A representative from each team is given a marker and they both receive the same word. They need to draw a representation of that word. They can not use letters, words or numbers in their illustrations. Both teams are allowed to watch both the drawings as they progress. The first team to correctly identify the drawing will win a point.

I have a list of words associated with *The Mad Potter*. You could easily compile a list of words from any of the other DCF books.

Word List:

treasure, pottery, tourist, clay, moustache, mud, wheel, shovel, wagon, jug, kiln, knickknack, piggy bank, pitcher, glaze, train, art, vase, coronet, wrinkle, fire, waterfall, lemonade, museum,

How to Look at a Pot: Page 49 provides suggestions for how to critique and appreciate pottery. Students could look up images online, visit a gallery, bring pottery from home or if they have created pottery in art class, use their own work to practice. The authors outline specific things to consider:

- What do you see?
- Sensory words to describe qualities of the pot: Texture, color, form and lines
- How was it made?
- What is the feeling expressed?

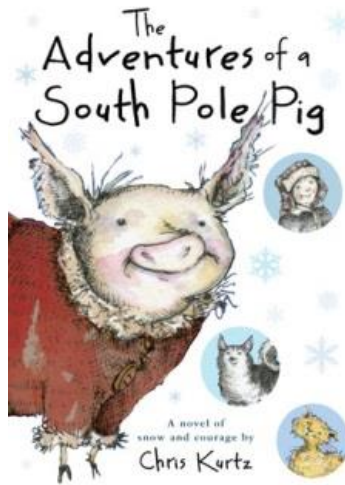
Multimedia activity: George E. Ohr -The Mad Potter- YouTube Video:

<http://bit.ly/1iL6JZd>

This 10 minute video is filmed at the Gallery in New Orleans where Ohr's pottery is displayed. Have students compare video with the book.

The Adventures of a South Pole Pig

by Chris Kurtz



Flora is a farm pig determined to challenge her destiny. Instead of ending up on someone's plate Flora yearns for a life full of adventure. Being part of a team as a sled dog ...er...sled pig is all Flora wants but stepping outside of a pig's place in the world isn't always easy.

Animals with Unusual Jobs: Many animals are working animals. We think of farm animals and service dogs this way but there are other animals domesticated and wild that do some unusual and important jobs. Use index cards and write on one card the jobs and on another write the animal and possibly glue a picture to the index card to. Have students try to find their match. More than one animal can perform the same job.

Sniff out mines: African Giant Pouched Rats, Dogs

Detect Mines, Protect Ships & Harbors: California Sea Lions, Bottlenose Dolphins

Massage Therapy: Milk Snakes, Corn Snakes

Transportation: Camels, Sled Dogs

Moving heavy loads: Elephants, Mules

Visual Service animal, Seeing guide animal: Miniature Horse.

Workaholics of the animal kingdom: Link to some interesting facts about animals that work non-stop simply to survive.

<http://www.animals-zone.com/animals-born-work>

Research Ideas:

- **Role of Animals in Human Society:** Students could conduct mini research projects and examine the role of animals in human society.
- **Dream the Impossible Dream:** People and animals who refuse to be defined or constrained by societal expectations or limitations and achieve amazing and unexpected things.
- **Antarctica and Sled Dogs:** Students could research the climate, the use of sled dogs for transportation, other wildlife on the Continent, other Antarctic expeditions, and the Iditarod.

Wisdom of the Wild: Although not a wild pig, Flora teaches us all lessons about perseverance, acceptance and never giving up. The PBS documentary **Wisdom of the Wild** explores the wisdom of wild animals and the lessons they teach us. This link takes you to the introduction video and along the right sidebar are links to the full episode or individual segments.

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/episodes/wisdom-of-the-wild/introduction/856/>

Fun YouTube Video about a dog that does some extraordinary things:

“Everyone needs a Harvey” http://youtu.be/dDx_3-A390s

“The President Has Been Shot!”: The assassination of John F. Kennedy

By James Swanson

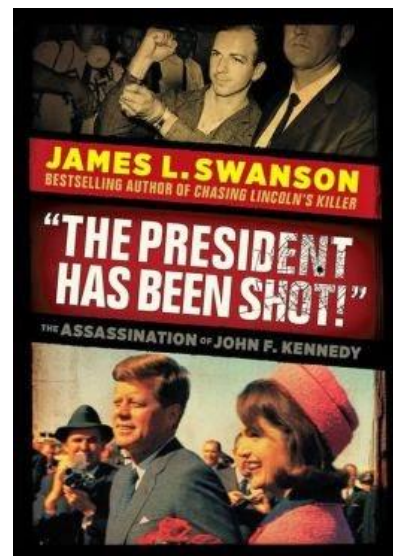
I Remember Where I Was When....

Interpersonal Intelligence

There are historical events that define a generation. They are events that were so shocking that people remember exactly where they were and what they were doing when they first heard about the event. *The President Has Been Shot* covers the events of John F. Kennedy’s assassination. Kennedy’s assassination is an example of one of those memorable events.

Here are some other examples of these events:

December 7, 1941...Pearl Harbor Attack
November 22, 1963...Assassination of JFK
January 28, 1986...Challenger explosion
August 31, 1997...Princess Diana’s Death
September 11, 2001...Terrorist attack



It is powerful for students to test this idea of historical defining moments. Have the students interview people who were alive during a given event and see if the interviewed person can recall what they were doing when they first heard about it.

The students can report back on their findings. Time moves along quickly. My current middle school students were in diapers when the 9/11 attack occurred.

Hiding Out at the Pancake Palace

by Nan Marino

How to Clear Out a Room

Musical Intelligence

In the book, *Hiding Out at the Pancake Palace*, the main character has an unusual ability. Elvis Ruby can casually look at a person and immediately determine their musical likes and dislikes.

He works in a pancake restaurant and occasionally they have customers who overstay their welcome. Elvis can select three songs which will subconsciously give the loiterers a nudge to the door.

Play with this idea! What three songs would chase you out the door? What three songs would chase your family members from the room? How about your friends? How about famous people?

example:

The three songs that would drive me from the room would be:

Achy, Breaky Heart... by Billy Ray Cyrus

any example of traditional Japanese opera

Revolution Nine... by the Beatles

Inversely what songs would draw you into a room?

Pancake Supper

Kinesthetic Intelligence

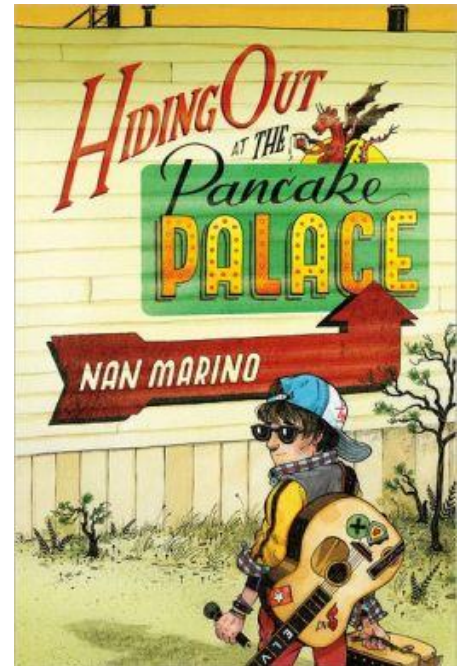
Students love food and food related activities. In the book, *Hiding Out at the Pancake Palace*, the restaurant specializes in making pancakes. They serve just three kinds of pancakes- strawberry, blueberry and plain.

There are several possible ideas involving pancakes and more importantly eating pancakes!

1. Pancake Supper...This can be a culminating event to a book group or it could be a way of enticing students to a book group. It could also be a fundraiser for a visiting author!

2. Pancake Contest (Taste)...In the book, the restaurant owner has a secret ingredient that she uses in her pancake batter. Who can make the best flapjack?

3. Pancake Contest (Shape)...I used to make Mickey Mouse Pancakes by carefully dribbling my batter in a series of interlocking circles to form Mickey's head, ears and nose. This is an activity that could be done at home and the cold works of art could be transported to the library (or classroom)for judging.



One Came Home

by Amy Timberlake

Past Tense Animals Part II

Naturalist & Linguistic Intelligences

In the book, *One Came Home*, passenger pigeons play an important role in the story. Passenger pigeons once appeared as clouds in the skies but now they are extinct.

Students are often curious about extinct animals. Have the students do a quick research blurb on one of the animals listed below. Have them describe the animals and how the animals became extinct.

This is a partial list of extinct animals. Have the students share the results of their research.

dodo

eastern elk

Carolina parakeet

great auk

heath hen

moa

passenger pigeon

Tasmanian tiger

Animals that once inhabited Vermont include:

mountain lion

wolf

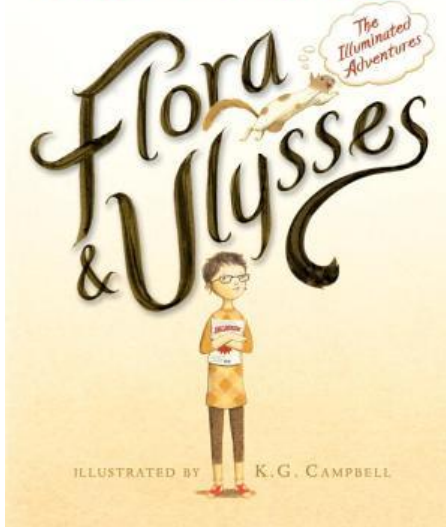
elk



KATE DICAMILLO

Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures

by Kate DiCamillo



In *Flora & Ulysses* we are introduced to Flora, a self-proclaimed cynic who loves superhero comics and often looks to the *Amazing Incandesto* as she figures out how to protect her superhero squirrel, Ulysses, from her disapproving mother. Comic strips are interspersed throughout to tell this magical story, visually capturing the adventures and characters Flora & Ulysses encounter.

Graphic novels and comics continue to be very popular with young readers and are a great way to engage their creativity and imagination.

Superhero Comic Strips (Visual/Spatial intelligence)

Invite students to create a superhero with a special superpower and have them design a comic strip featuring their superhero in an adventure.

Use a paper template (a sample is included) or a free online comic creation site.

Free online Comics creators:

ReadWriteThink:

<http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/comic/>

Make Beliefs Comics: <http://www.makebeliefscomix.com/>

Toondoo: <http://www.toondoo.com/>

“Holy Bagumba” and “Holy Unanticipated Consequences” are catch phrases exclaimed by Flora and the Amazing Incandesto.

Comic Book Superhero Catch Phrase Game matching the superhero with the phrase. Here are some examples.:

Great Krypton! (Superman)

Up, up, and away! (Superman)

Great Hera! (Wonder Woman)

Sufferin' Sappho! (Wonder Woman)

Avengers Assemble! (Captain America, or whoever is the leader of the team at the time)

It's clobberin' time! (the Thing)

Flame on! (the Human Torch)

Shazam! (DC Captain Marvel)

Have students play with words and phrases for their superheroes.

Found Art Sculptures: Maryann, The Little Shepardess Lamp is a conversation piece throughout the book. Ask students to bring a small object from home that is unusual, funny, and able to be altered. Using tape, glue, string, and other art supplies students can create a “found art sculpture”, give it a name and present it to the class.

My Superhero_____

Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library

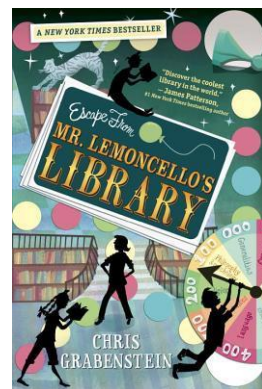
by Chris Grabenstein

Twelve kids, who've never grown up with a library, are selected to participate in a lock-in at the new town library. The participants are presented with puzzles, rebuses, Dewey decimal challenges, literary references from classics to new favorites and more as they try to escape from the library and win the chance to star in commercials for Mr. Lemoncello's games and puzzles.

Bibliomania Game: According to Merriam Webster Online Dictionary, Bibliomania is the extreme preoccupation with collecting books. It is also the name of a game testing people's knowledge of books and libraries created by Mr. Lemoncello. Create a Bibliomania game tailored to your library and like Mr. Lemoncello transform your library into a game board. The goal could be to collect game pieces or to move from one end of the library to another, or to escape from the library.

Ideas for the game:

- Create questions that require students to explore the 10 Dewey categories.
- Leave visual questions or challenges around the library.
- Allow students to ask an expert (a classmate or teacher) for assistance with a question or a challenge.
- Put kids in teams to play the game.



Rebus Puzzles: A Rebus is a puzzle or picture that represents words or parts of a word. These puzzles helped the lock-in kids with clues to help them escape from the library. Visit this make your own Rebus site:

<http://www.festisite.com/text-layout/> (click the Rebus tab in upper right corner).

What's The Connection: Many of the games in the library asked kids to find the connection between groups of books. A great way to introduce this book, to warm up a class, or to begin a book talk session is to play the game "What's the Connection" Create lists of 3 books or 3 authors and have students find what binds these 3 books together! A sample "what's the connection" is included.

Boggle Game: The book includes a boggle like puzzle (included in packet.)

WHAT'S THE CONNECTION

What binds these 3 books together?

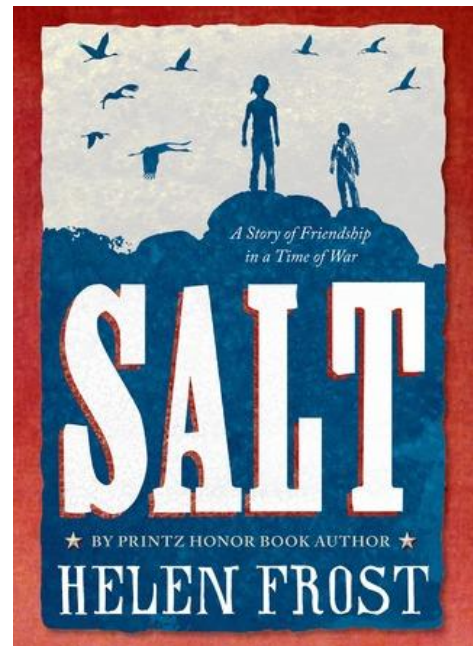
1. *Over and Under the Snow*
I Stink
Louise, the Adventures of a Chicken
2. *The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling
No Ordinary Day by Deborah Ellis
Homeless Bird by Gloria Whalen
3. *The Knife of Never Letting Go* by Patrick Ness
Cracker by Cynthia Kadohata
Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls
4. *Sal: A Story of Friendship in a Time of War* by Helen Frost
Little Dog Lost by Marion Bauer
Heartbeat by Sharon Creech
5. *California Blue* by David Klass
Hoot by Carl Hiaasen
Keeper by Mal Peet
6. *Anything But Typical* by Nora Raleigh Baskin
Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko
Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine
7. *Those Shoes* by Maribeth Boelts
True Believer by Virginia Euwer Wolff
How to Steal a Dog by Barbara O'Connor
8. *The Danger Box* by Blue Balliett
When Life Gives You O.J. by Erica S. Perl
Granny Torrelli Makes Soup by Sharon Creech

L	U	I	G
I	L	L	E
M	O	N	C
E	L	L	O

Salt: A Story of Friendship in a Time of War

by Helen Frost

Salt is a novel in verse about friendship and struggle during the War of 1812. The novel is told from the alternating perspectives of two twelve year old boys, Anikwa, a member of the Miami Tribe and James, the son of a trader. The novel has received praise and generated discussion concerning the depiction of the Myaamia people and the description of events and places.



Readers theater: This story would be great to have students read aloud. Different students can take turns reading the alternating voices of Anikwa and James, as well as the poems about Salt interspersed throughout the story.

Salt:

- Gandhi said, "Next to air and water, **salt** is perhaps the **greatest** necessity of life." Salt has an important place in this story and in this moment in history. Have students research its importance to the Myaamia people and in the War of 1812. Students could research the Great Salt March in India and the importance of salt during the War of 1812 and compare and contrast these two events.

Perspective and Historical fiction:

The story tells the same events from two different points of view. Historical and even everyday events can be understood and depicted differently depending on who is describing or telling about the event.

Brainstorm with students what factors contribute to people interpreting the same events differently.

Use other significant historical events and find or have students find interpretations of those events from two different perspectives.

Digital Discussions/Debates:

The web provides a vast and immediate forum for people to share their opinions and ideas on just about anything.

Visit the following websites and read the discussions surrounding this book and the portrayal of the period and the people. Identify some of the opposing viewpoints and stage a debate with students about the issues raised in these blog posts.

Students can also add their own comments to these blog sites as well.

Aacimotaatiiyankwi-A Miami Community and Ecology Blog

<http://myaamiahistory.wordpress.com/2013/11/12/faqssalt/>

American Indians in Children's Literature

<http://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com/2013/10/initial-thoughts-about-helen-frosts.html>

Shape Poems: Anikwa's perspective is presented in the form of Miami ribbon work, a traditional art form of the Myaamia people. Have students create their own shape poems. ReadWriteThink has an online tool for creating these poems.

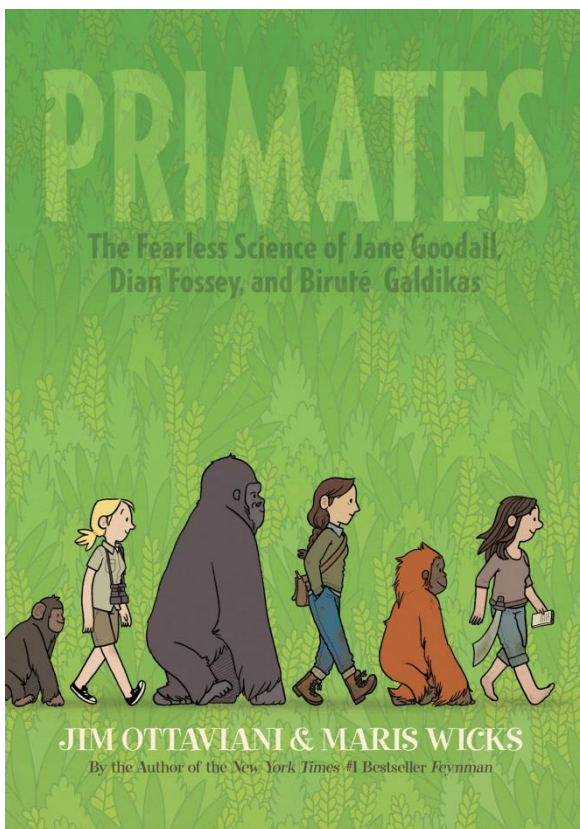
<http://bit.ly/1jmtP8g>

Primate: The Fearless Science of Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Birute Galdikas

This graphic novel features the stories of three groundbreaking female scientists who studied under Louis Leakey and made significant contributions to primatology.

Chimps, Gorillas, Orangutans: They are all primates to me!

Jane Goodall studied Chimpanzees, Dian Fossey studied Gorillas, and Birute Galdikas studied Orangutans. Students could do research and compare and contrast each of these primates.

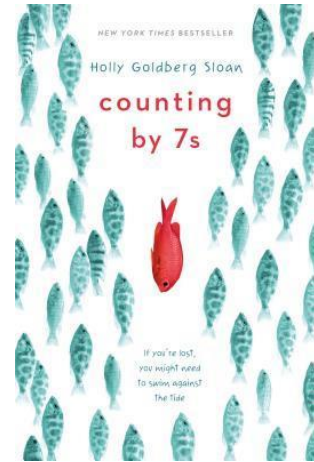


Graphic memoirs: Students can use comic creators or can draw their own comic that depicts the story of a famous person.

Counting by 7's by Amy Timberlake

Willow Chance loves the number 7 and is obsessed with medical conditions and plants.

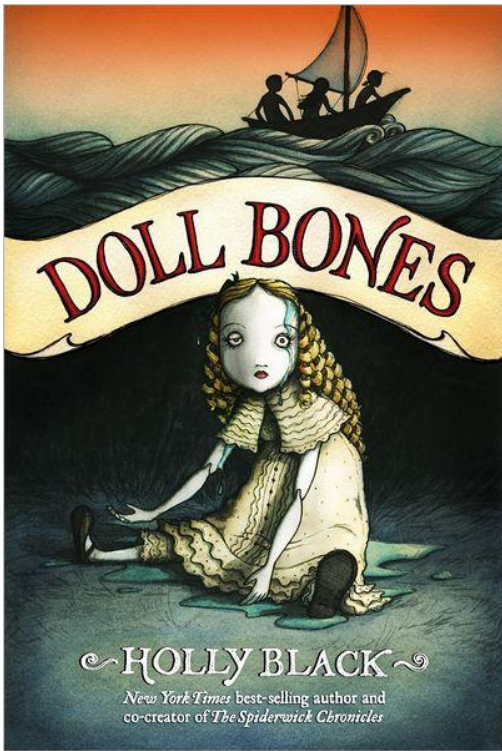
Sunflower Garden: When Willow moves from her home with a lush backyard garden to an apartment complex with a weedy, gray courtyard she decides to green things up and solicits the help of her new family. Have students start sunflowers in cups like Willow did and find a place either on the school grounds or within the community to transplant them! You can turn this into a science experiment and chart observations about growth. This site provides simple instructions for doing this.



<http://www.growinginthegarden.org/growing-sunflowers.html>

Guess My Disease: Willow loves to learn about diseases and creates flash cards with diseases and diagnostics. Have students' research diseases they want to learn about and then create a game where they present symptoms, causes, etc. and try to guess the disease.

Favor Bank: When Willow and her new family decide to green up the courtyard, several people who Willow has helped return her kindness by helping complete this project. Create a favor bank at school or in a class and students can list things they need help with or can offer help towards.



Doll Bones

by Holly Black

Doll Bones is the spooky and adventurous tale of three friends and a doll. They embark on an adventure at a time when their friendship is changing as they grow up and grow out of their childhood games.

Scariest Doll Contest: Invite students to bring in their scariest doll and/or stuffed animal from home. You know the ones that may have been cute once or that always had that sort of demonic look to them. Have students create a creepy story for the doll and have a judging contest to determine the Scariest. Include photo ops with the dolls!

Scary Stories: Circle students up for some hauntingly scary stories. Invite students to write and read their own. Here are some prompts to get them started:

1. I got an eerie feeling when I heard...
2. The mysterious object started floating in the air and...
3. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw...
4. Suddenly I felt a chill all around me...

Activities for Multiple Books on the List

Writing a Fan Letter

Linguistic Intelligence

Each year we have students who absolutely fall in love with a particular book. The DCF voting offers students one way to show their appreciation of a cherished book. Writing a fan letter offers a more personal way of showing your appreciation.

Most of the authors offer websites for their fans. These websites often offer opportunities to contact the authors. I have compiled a list of websites offered by the authors of this year's DCF books:

www.blackholly.com/ Holly Black...*Doll Bones*

www.katedicamillo.com/ Kate DiCamillo...*Flora & Ulysses*

www.timfederle.com/ Tim Federle...*Better Nate Than Never*

www.davidflemingink.com/?page_id=19 David Fleming...*Saturday Boy*

www.helenfrost.net Helen Frost...*Salt*

www.adinagewirtz.com/ Adina Rishe Gewirtz...*Zebra Forest*

www.markgoldblatt.com/ Mark Goldblatt...*Twerp*

www.chrisgrabenstein.com/ Chris Grabenstein...*Escape from Mr.*

Lemoncello's Library

www.jangreenbergsandrajordan.com/ Jan Greenberg & Sandra

Jordan...*The Mad Hatter*

www.karenharringtonbooks.com/ Karen Harrington...*Sure Signs of Crazy*

www.todddhasaklowry.com/ Todd Hasak-Lowry...*33 minutes*

www.deborahhopkinson.com/ Deborah Hopkinson...*The Great Trouble*

www.cynthiakadohata.com/ Cynthia Kadohata...*The Thing About Luck*

www.chriskurtzauthor.com/ Chris Kurtz...*The Adventures of a South*

Pole Pig

www.josannelavalley.com/ Josanne La Valley...*The Vine Basket*

Leon Leyson...*Boy on the Wooden Box* (Sadly Mr. Leyson died in 2013)

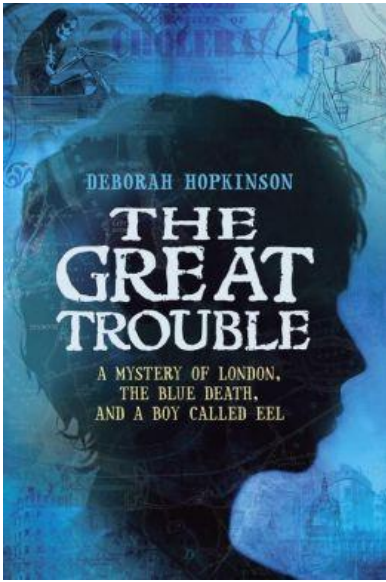
www.nanmarino.com/ Nan Marino...*Hiding Out at the Pancake Palace*

www.mcnealbooks.com/ Tom Mcneal...*Far Far Away*

www.gt-labs.com/ Jim Ottaviano...*Primates*

www.leahpileggi.com/ Leah Pileggi...*Prisoner 88*

www.hollygoldbergsloan.com/ Holly Goldberg Sloan...*Counting by 7's*
www.tanyastone.com/ Tanya Lee Stone...*Courage Has No Color*
www.tarasullivanbooks.com/ Tara Sullivan...*Golden Boy*
www.amytimberlake.com/ Amy Timberlake...*One Came Home*
www.lindaurbanbooks.com/ Linda Urban...*The Center of Everything*
www.vivianvandelvelde.com Vivian Vande Velde...*Frogged*
www.vincevawter.com/ Vince Vawter...*Paperboy*
www.ritawg.com/ Rita Williams-Garcia...*P.S. Be Eleven*



The Great Trouble: A Mystery of London, the Blue Death, and a Boy Called Eel

by Deborah Hopkinson

“The President Has Been Shot”: The Assassination of John F. Kennedy

by James L. Swanson

Mapping the Action to Solve the Crime

Spatial Intelligence

Maps are very important with both of these books. The authors actually include maps so that the readers may follow the action.

In *The Great Trouble: A Mystery of London, the Blue Death, and a Boy Called Eel* a map is used to solve a medical mystery. People in a particular neighborhood are falling ill with the “blue death”. A doctor and Eel use maps to find the common source of the ailment.

In *The President Has Been Shot: The Assassination of John F. Kennedy* maps are used to show how the assassination took place and how Lee Harvey Oswald escaped the scene.

Having a large master map in the library/classroom would be a wonderful way for the students to follow the action. As places are mentioned in the book they can be noted on the master map.

The master map can be generated by enlarging the maps supplied by the authors.

P.S. Be Eleven

By Rita Williams-Garcia

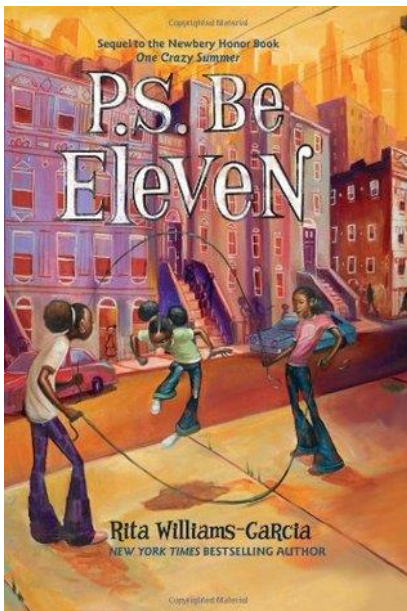
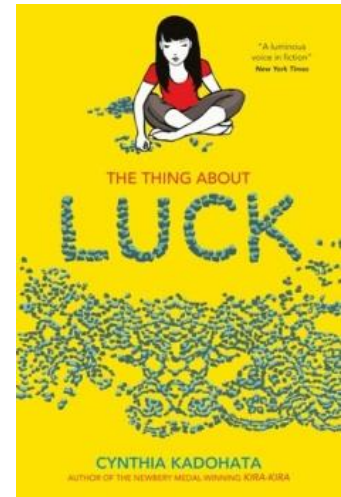
The Thing About Luck

by Cynthia Kadohata

Generation Gaps and Grandparents: Both of these books feature children being raised either permanently or temporarily by grandparents. The grandparents often provide perspectives on the past and ideas and values that sometimes clash with their grandchildren and their experiences.

Intergenerational activities like luncheons, game nights, craft activities are a great way to bridge the gap and bring generations together.

P.S. Be Eleven is set in the 1960's during the civil rights movement and lends itself to researching the Black Panther movement and to comparing this movement on the East Coast and West Coast.



Jackson 5 – The Girls are forever changed when they first see the Jackson 5 perform on TV. Introduce students to their music as well as the sounds of Motown.

In *The Thing About Luck* Summers parents need to go to Japan to care for ailing relatives and so the grandparents take over the parents migrant wheat harvesting jobs and Summer and her brother travel with them. This novel offers a peek into the lives of migrant workers. Vermont has a significant migrant worker population. Students could research issues for migrant workers in Vermont and other states such as education, housing, health care.

The girls uncle returns from the Vietnam War a changed and emotionally wounded person. Discuss and research the effects of war on soldiers, families, those living in war torn parts of the world.

Jump Rope Games: the cover of P.S. Be Eleven shows Delphine, Vonetta and Fern playing jump rope on the sidewalk in New York.

Have a jump rope day and teach students jump rope songs.

Jump Rope Rhymes: http://www.gameskidsplay.net/Jump_Rope_rhymes/

Check out the Jump Rope Diva's video
<http://youtu.be/Isx1Q5wyJZg>